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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006)

Note verbale dated 20 February 2007 from the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Finland presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), and referring to the latter's note dated 7 February 2007, has the honour to communicate the following information concerning the implementation by Finland of the United Nations sanctions against Iran set out in the above-mentioned Security Council resolution.

In its conclusions adopted on 22 January 2007, the Council of the European Union welcomed the measures in resolution 1737 (2006) and called on all countries to implement the measures in full and without delay. The Council agreed that the European Union should prevent the export to and import from Iran of the goods on the lists of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime; ban transactions with and freeze the assets of individuals and entities covered by the criteria in resolution 1737 (2006); and take measures to prevent Iranian nationals from studying proliferation-sensitive subjects within the European Union.

The European Union immediately initiated the preparation of legal instruments implementing the provisions of resolution 1737 (2006). On 12 February 2007, the European Union Council politically endorsed a draft common position concerning restrictive measures against Iran. Preparations are under way to adopt without delay a Council regulation.

At the national level, sanctions are imposed by virtue of the Act on the Enforcement of Certain Obligations of Finland as a Member of the United Nations and of the European Union ("Sanctions Act", No. 659/1967). The Sanctions Act provides a basis for prompt implementation of the provisions of the European Union Council sanctions regulations, when regulations are adopted on the basis of Article 60, 301 or 308 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

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The Sanctions Act, together with the Penal Code (No. 39/1889), provides for the penalties and forfeitures to be imposed for violations of Council sanctions regulations. According to Chapter 46, Section 1 (11) of the Penal Code, a person who violates or attempts to violate a regulatory provision in a sanctions regulation, adopted on the basis of Article 60, 301 or 308 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, shall be sentenced for a regulation offence to a fine or to imprisonment for at most four years.